



Number Two

# Charles Street Byway Management Plan

Protecting and Promoting the Unique Qualities of the Charles Street Corridor

## Defining the Charles Street Corridor

Defining the Byway corridor is one of the most critical elements in developing a Byway management plan. A narrow corridor definition would limit the number of areas eligible to apply for Scenic Byway funds, while an overly inclusive corridor definition will dissipate planning and implementation efforts.

- The Byway corridor should include the whole length of Charles Street and portions of any parallel street required to create a return path. The Byway will extend from the Charles Street-Beltway traffic circle in Lutherville to the end of Charles Street in South Baltimore, just below the Beltway viaduct.
- The width of the Byway will be defined by the “viewshed,” or, the elements that are visible from the roadway itself. This width will vary, from the narrowly defined visual experience of urban Mount Vernon to the expansive width of the Byway through the lawns and woods of Baltimore County.
- Sidetracks will include streets, environments, and attractions that will help tell the Byway story. The attractions must also be visitor-ready with available parking and access to alternative transportation modes. Sidetracks may also create a loop or a logical link to or from the primary Charles Street corridor.

The map on the reverse side shows the location of the Byway in relation to existing and planned greenways, trails, scenic byways, and potential gateways.

## Byway Theme

A theme for the Charles Street Byway is critical to the organization of the

planning, implementation, and finally, the quality of the experience for its future visitors. Adapting a theme identified by the Baltimore City Heritage Area Authority has tremendous potential for Charles Street and is a good starting point as we think about the corridor.

*“As Baltimore’s main street and premier avenue, Charles Street tells a tale of urban innovation on the shores of the Chesapeake. Countless stories are illustrated along this corridor: the invention and morphing of the North American rowhouse, from alley houses to mansions, with their streets punctuated by steeples in all directions, and the creation of Olmstedian greenswards in North Baltimore. We’ve done reinvention, too: memorable preservation efforts in Otterbein and Federal Hill; a total transformation of the Upper Basin of the Patapsco into the Inner Harbor; and the pioneering endeavors in modernist planning at Charles Center. From port to portico, dollar house to movie house, Charles Street ties together the architectural, cultural, institutional, and historical legacy of Baltimore.”*

## Byway Vision

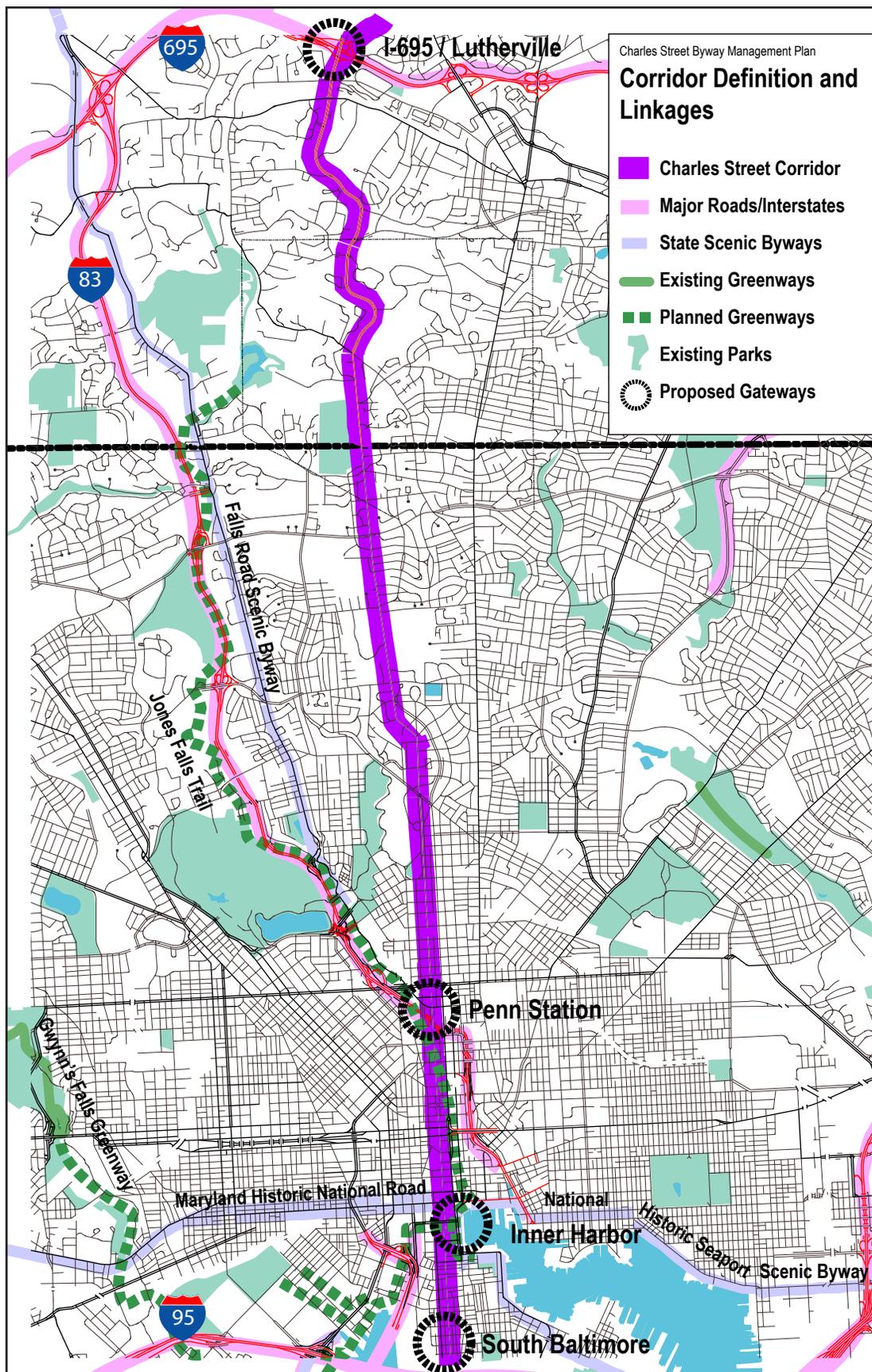
The Byway vision is intended to guide the development of the corridor plan. The following statement was derived from Advisory Committee input:

*“Arriving by train, car, boat, bicycle, bus, light rail, and on foot, visitors*



The “viewshed” of Charles Street is bounded by building facades in its urban neighborhoods (top) and more expansive landscapes found in the northern part of the corridor (bottom photograph).

*to the Byway experience a vibrant cultural landscape unique to the Chesapeake region. Linking the Inner Harbor and its attractions to many of Baltimore’s outstanding and world-renowned educational, historical, and cultural institutions, the Byway travels through an eclectic mix of urban and suburban neighborhoods, great places to live, work, shop, dine, recreate, and relax. The variety of Charles Street makes for an interesting experience as residents and visitors alike travel between the City and County, enjoying Baltimore’s wonderful museums, historical sites, architectural beauty, cultural activities and its designed landscapes and parks.”*



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